

# **Professional Educator Standards Board**

## **Prospective Teacher Assessment System**



## ***RCW 28A.410.220***

(1)(c) The Washington professional educator standards board may establish criteria to ensure that persons from out-of-state who are applying for residency certification and persons applying to master's degree level teacher preparation programs can demonstrate to the board's satisfaction that they have the requisite basic skills based upon having completed another basic skills assessment acceptable to the Washington professional educator standards board or by some other alternative approve by the Washington professional educator standards board.

## ***Issues (Questions)***

- Purpose of teacher certification (Will the policy protect children from unqualified teachers?)
- Legislative Intent/Public Interest (Will the policy provide a uniform measure of basic skills for applicants?)
- Legal defensibility (Will the policy protect children and be equitable for all applicants?)
- Validity of alternative tests (Do alternative tests measure the same knowledge and skills as the WEST-B?)

## ***Issues (Questions) cont.***

- Equivalency of scores on alternative tests (Will a “passing” score on an alternative test mean the same as a passing score on the WEST-B?)
- Fairness (Will having different requirements be fair for all applicants?)
- Varied course requirements and grading policies of institutions granting baccalaureate degrees (Do baccalaureate degrees certify the level of proficiency in reading, writing and math required of all teachers in Washington?)

# Baccalaureate Degrees

- Wave the basic skills test for applicants with baccalaureate degrees.
- Pros: Anyone with a baccalaureate degree is assumed to have sufficient basic skills to teach in Washington.
- Cons: A persons level of basic skills may depend on the how recent the degree was awarded and the course requirements of the granting institution. For example, a person with a degree may not have taken mathematics courses to gain the basic skills required of all teachers.

# Other Tests

- Wave the basic skills test for applicants who have passing scores on other tests (e.g.: SAT, GRE, teacher basic skills tests, etc.).
- Pros: Applicants must have basic skills to pass other rigorous tests.
- Cons: Other tests may not measure the same knowledge and skills being measured by the WEST-B. The development of these test have not taken the same steps in ensuring that the knowledge and skills measured by the WEST-B are basic skills that should be required of all teachers in Washington. Therefore, these tests may not be valid for the purpose of certifying teachers in Washington.



# Possible Criteria



- Teaching Experience
- National Board Certification
- Time Extension